

Hill Will Not Go Back to Arkansas

GOVERNOR ALLEN'S REFUSAL TO GRANT EXTRADITION OF ROBERT L. HILL TO ARKANSAS A GREAT VICTORY FOR THE N. A. A. C. P.

NEW YORK, April 3.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has issued a statement in regard to the refusal of Governor Henry J. Allen of Kansas to extradite Robert L. Hill, accused of being the leader of a plot to "massacre" whites in Phillips county, Arkansas, last October, which reviewed the legal steps taken to prevent Hill's extradition. This the Association regards as one of the greatest legal victories won since the Segregation Decision and since Governor McCall of Massachusetts denied extradition to West Virginia of John Johnson.

"At the close of a hearing which lasted from two o'clock in the afternoon of March 22 until after midnight Governor Henry J. Allen of Kansas refused to grant the extradition petition of Governor Borough of Arkansas for the return of Robert L. Hill, alleged head of the Progressive Farmers and Household Union of America, to Arkansas.

"Hill was arrested in Topeka, Kansas, on January 20, as the leader of the organization charged with planning to 'massacre' whites in Arkansas in October, 1919. As soon as news of the arrest was received at the National Headquarters of the Association, the Secretary got in touch with Senator Arthur Capper (formerly President of the Topeka Branch of the Association and at present a member of the National Board of Directors of the N. A. A. C. P.), who wired Governor Allen asking that Hill's extradition be denied until the N. A. A. C. P. could be represented by counsel to fight the case. The Association itself wired Governor Allen stating that the Association would retain counsel on Hill's behalf and alleging that Hill could not receive a fair trial in Arkansas; that this fact was conclusively proved by the record of trial and conviction growing out of the Phillips County, Arkansas, verdicts of last November, rendered by juries from which colored men were excluded, the jury's verdict in the case of five of the twelve men sentenced to death, having been returned in five minutes. Counsel for the defense put no witnesses on the stand in defendant's behalf and did not ask for a change of venue.

"Senator Capper recommended Mr. Hugh T. Fisher, County Attorney of Shawnee County, Kansas, to represent the Association in fighting Hill's extradition. Mr. Fisher's genuine interest in securing for Hill a fair trial is shown by the following extract from his letter to the N. A. A. C. P. in which he agreed to take up the case:

"Immediately upon receipt of the telegram from Senator Capper I wired him to the effect that I would take the case upon his recommendation and without compensation, and that he should notify you to that effect."

"From this time until the decision of Governor Allen was rendered, Mr. Fisher has worked untiringly and with great legal ability in Hill's defense.

"It was contended on Hill's behalf that he had no direct connection with colored people arming themselves or with the trouble at Hoop Spur, Arkansas. By affidavits and depositions it was shown that the testimony at the Arkansas trial was procured through torture and that testimony offered by Arkansas authorities, who were represented by Attorney General J. D. Arbuttle, was hearsay testimony. Mr. Fisher forced the Arkansas Attorney General to admit that O. S. Bratton, a white man of Little Rock, Arkansas was almost lynched and that a great deal of feeling and prejudice against Hill and his organization existed in Arkansas.

"Following Governor Allen's denial of extradition, which was a great blow to the authorities, counsel for Hill and the N. A. A. C. P. immediately took a train for Kansas City, Kansas, arriving there just in time to prevent the Arkansas authorities from securing a writ from Federal Judge Pollock for Hill's removal to Arkansas on the ground of imprisoning a federal officer, which counsel for the N. A. A. C. P. regard as a trivial and inconsequential charge. Judge Pollock refused to sign the papers and has set April 8 as the date for the hearing on the federal indictment.

"Associated with Mr. Fisher and backed by the N. A. A. C. P., were three colored attorneys, of Topeka, Messrs. Elisha Scott, James H. Guy, and A. M. Thomas.

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People regards Governor Allen's action as deeply significant," said John R. Shillady, Secretary of the Association. "Inasmuch as the Arkansas authorities were represented by the

Attorney General of the State who appeared in person, and is indicative, the Association believes, of what would have happened in Arkansas had the ninety odd colored defendants in the alleged uprising in Elaine had a fair trial before an unprejudiced jury where their rights were protected as they were by Mr. Fisher and his associates in Topeka, and not as in Elaine, Arkansas, where the defendants were represented by counsel appointed by the court, who did practically nothing in their defense."

ORGANIZED LABOR AND NEGRO WORKERS

Urges Organized Action in Negro Labor Circles.

"This is the day of the workers, the organized worker. In Russia, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and America, those who produce the wealth of the world are demanding and getting more than ever before. The reason for this is, that labor is becoming class conscious, it is realizing its power when organized, when intelligent. It is simple, it is elementary, that one hundred reeds joined together are harder to break than when separate. So it is with labor. An individual worker cannot fight organized capital. The concessions that labor has already won from big business, have been due only to labor's increasing intelligence and solidarity. Before the modern trades and industrial unions existed, working men toiled from sunrise to sunset. Of course, in the South, Negroes are still sweated 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 hours a day. The lumberjacks (white) in the West are no less mercilessly exploited. It is these indescribable industrial conditions that gave birth to the Industrial Workers of the World. Peonage pens and industrial hells of the South will eventually force Negro workers, too, into industrial unions.

With a slight knowledge of the history of labor struggles, Negro workers would recognize that no advantage, no benefit, no improvement ever came to labor except through organized action. It is true that some white labor unions ignorantly discriminate against Negro workers by refusing them admittance into their unions. Yet, that is no valid point against the value of the labor union to workers, black or white. Negro workers should form unions, in order to fight organized capital, on the one hand, and to force organized white labor to practice the principles of brotherhood, on the other.

The Messenger recognizes industrial action as the most effective weapons which the Negro can employ, both in the interest of himself as a worker, and as a race. The census report of 1910 shows that there are over six million Negroes gainfully employed in the United States, or two million more workers than the American Federation of Labor has. Now, if the American Federation, with only four million workers, led by an incompetent and reactionary leader as Samuel Gompers, can force the President and Congress to recognize it, by seeking its counsel upon practically every important national and international question, in war and peace, what will it not do under the economic pressure of two million organized Negro workers? On the cotton fields, Negro cotton workers produce nearly 60 per cent of the cotton of the entire world. Great banks in New York, London, Paris and Berlin depend for their existence upon the sweat and toil of the Southern Negro cotton pickers, who are shamelessly robbed of the product of their labor—Negroes who are held in the chains of ignorance, superstition and avarice of cotton speculators, North and South. If Negroes formed a cotton workers union, to strike for more wages, shorter hours, and better conditions under which to work, it would arouse and frighten Southern, Northern and, too, foreign capitalists, because it would mean that the profits of capital would be smaller. For when wages are high, profits are low. The products of labor is divided into two parts: wages and profits. All above wages represents profits or surplus wealth. If a worker produces fifty dollars a day and receives only ten, in the form of wages, the extra forty dollars represents profits, which go to the employer. Now, the employer would like to give the workers only five dollars, as wages, and take forty-five as profits, and the only thing that prevents him is, either the shortage of labor or the power of labor, through organization, to resist capital. The worker, on the other hand, would like to get fifteen or twenty, or thirty or forty dollars as wages. But he can only get what he has the power to take through organized action, a labor union. The worker, in fact, would desire to receive the full product of his toil, the fifty dollars. But he will only get so far in his demands as his intelligence and power will carry him. Now the Negro cannot get, nor will he get, any more than organized and intelligent industrial action will enable him to take. The Negro, like the white

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worker, is entitled to the full product of his toil, all that he produces. Black and white workers should unite to get it. And ere long, black and white workers will stop fighting each other over Race prejudice and combine against their common enemy—the white capitalist.—Messenger.

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NEGRO COMPOSER'S CHILDREN ARE MAKING RECORD

Late Coleridge Taylor's Son and Daughter Are Interpreting His Music Creditably.

(A. N. P. Service).

LONDON, Eng., April 2.—H. Coleridge-Taylor, son of the celebrated Negro composer, whose death occurred in London several years ago, has with his sister, Gwendolin, been appearing in Queen's Hall, in interpretations of their father's music. The son apparently is a gifted conductor, for on the occasion of the concert of the Central London Choral and Orchestral Concert, David J. Thomas, the conductor, turned his baton over to the young Negro to conduct his father's music. The daughters appear in recitations set to Coleridge-Taylor's music.

KISSING AFTER DARK IS BEST FOR HEALTH

Doctor Brown Says T. B. Victims Can Count Best at Night.

(Star News Service).

NEW YORK, April 2.—Kissing is unsanitary until sunshine and fresh air have sterilized the lips, according to Doctor Lawson Brown of Saranac Lake, who told the New York state medical society at last Wednesday's session of its convention that "it's a good thing for the human race that courting is done at night and in the late afternoon."

Speaking on tuberculosis, Doctor Brown described a kissing test made at Saranac to determine whether the disease can be transmitted by contact of the lips.

"We selected a pretty young woman with a bad case of tuberculosis, and had her kiss a sterilized dish," said Dr. Brown. "We found the morning kisses gave forth a few germs, but those in the afternoon and evening were a pretty health risk."

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"INDIAN KID" PLEADS NOT GUILTY IN MURDER CASE

Slayer of City Patrolman Thompson Will Be Tried April 9.

Pleading not guilty to the charge

of murder, Ray McGonagall, known in this city as the "Indian Kid," arrested Monday in connection with the fatal shooting of J. L. Thompson, city patrolman, was committed to the county jail without bond Wednesday at his arrangement before Justice H. J. Gray for preliminary hearing at 2 o'clock April 9th.

McGonagall shot and killed the officer after a quarrel between the two men at the Gem apartments, 119 South Denver avenue. The defendant claims that Thompson threatened the arrest of Mrs. McGonagall as a vagrant, and that the officer fired the first shot during the argument as to whether the officer should make the arrest as he had threatened.

After the shooting McGonagall telephoned the sheriffs office and police headquarters and waited for officers to come for him.

WANTED—A number of live wire agents and collectors. See or write S. G. Smith, General Agent of the National Life Insurance Co., 119 1/2 N. Greenwood, Phone O-3566.

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